

Claims

We claim:

1. A method for generating a curve in a region, the method comprising:
generating an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point;
5 applying one or more boundary conditions to the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point to generate a bounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein the bounded Low Discrepancy Point is located within the region;
repeating said generating and said applying one or more boundary conditions one or more times, thereby generating a Low Discrepancy Sequence in the region;
10 storing the Low Discrepancy Sequence; and
generating output comprising the Low Discrepancy Sequence, wherein the Low Discrepancy Sequence defines the curve in the region.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the curve is a Low Discrepancy Curve.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
scanning the region according to the curve defined by the Low Discrepancy Sequence.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said generating the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point comprises:
selecting two or more irrational numbers;
selecting a step size epsilon (ϵ);
selecting a starting position;
25 initializing a current position to the starting position; and
incrementing one or more terms of the current position based on a factor of ϵ and one of the irrational numbers to generate the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein each term corresponds to a dimension of the region.

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5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
setting the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said
applying the one or more boundary conditions.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein said repeating said generating and said
applying boundary conditions one or more times comprises:
repeating said incrementing, said applying one or more boundary conditions, and
said setting the current position, one or more times.

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7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
selecting a maximum length L of the curve in the region;
initializing a current length to zero prior to said repeating; and
updating the current length to include a distance from the current position to the
bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said generating the bounded Low Discrepancy
Point;

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wherein said repeating one or more times comprises repeating until the current
length meets or exceeds the maximum length L.

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8. The method of claim 4, wherein the starting position is a randomly
selected point in the region.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the region includes an origin, and wherein
the starting position is the origin.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein the two or more irrational numbers are not
integral multiples of each other.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said applying one or more boundary conditions comprises:

if the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point is outside of the region, applying one of a reflecting boundary condition or a toroidal boundary condition at each border of the region.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing the Low Discrepancy Sequence comprises:

storing each bounded Low Discrepancy Point of the Low Discrepancy Sequence as it is generated.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the region comprises a 2-dimensional rectangular region, wherein the two or more irrational numbers comprise two irrational numbers, and wherein the curve in the region comprises one or more line segments.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the rectangular region comprises a unit square.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said generating the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point comprises:

selecting two or more irrational numbers $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ such that a sequence $(\{(n * \alpha_1) \bmod 1\}, \dots, \{(n * \alpha_n) \bmod 1\})$ comprises a first Low Discrepancy Sequence (LDS) in the region, where n is a natural number;

selecting a step size epsilon (ϵ);

selecting a starting position $(x_{0_1}, \dots, x_{0_n})$;

initializing a current position (x_1, \dots, x_n) to the starting position $(x_{0_1}, \dots, x_{0_n})$; and

incrementing each term (x_i) of the current position by ($\epsilon * \alpha_i$) to generate an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point (y_1, \dots, y_n), wherein each term (x_i) corresponds to a dimension of the region.

5 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said applying one or more boundary conditions to the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point comprises:

 applying a boundary condition to each term (y_i) of the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point (y_1, \dots, y_n) in response to said incrementing to generate the bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n);

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 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

 setting the current position (x_1, \dots, x_n) to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n) after said applying the one or more boundary conditions.

15 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

 selecting a maximum length L of the curve in the region;

 initializing a current length to zero prior to said repeating; and

 updating the current length to include a distance from the current position (x_1, \dots, x_n) to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n) after said generating the

20 bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n);

 wherein said repeating one or more times comprises repeating until the current length meets or exceeds the maximum length L .

 19. The method of claim 15, wherein the two or more irrational numbers
25 ($\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$) are not integral multiples of one another.

 20. A method for generating a curve in a region, the method comprising:

 selecting two or more irrational numbers;

selecting a step size epsilon (ϵ);

selecting a starting position;

initializing a current position to the starting position;

5 incrementing each term of the current position based on a factor of ϵ and one of the irrational numbers to generate an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein each term corresponds to a dimension of the region;

applying boundary conditions to one or more terms of the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point in response to said incrementing to generate a bounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein the bounded Low Discrepancy Point is located within the
10 region;

setting the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point;

storing the bounded Low Discrepancy Point;

repeating said incrementing, said applying boundary conditions, said setting the current position, and said storing one or more times, thereby generating a Low
15 Discrepancy Sequence in the region; and

generating output comprising the Low Discrepancy Sequence, wherein the Low Discrepancy Sequence defines the curve in the region.

21. The method of claim 20,
20 wherein the two or more irrational numbers are useable in creating at least one Low Discrepancy Sequence (LDS) in the region.

22. A method for generating a Low Discrepancy Curve in a region, the method comprising:

25 selecting a starting position (x_0, \dots, x_0);

initializing a current position (x_1, \dots, x_n) to the starting position;

incrementing each term (x_i) of the current position by ($\epsilon * \alpha_i$) to generate an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point (y_1, \dots, y_n), wherein each term (x_i) corresponds to a dimension of the region;

5 applying boundary conditions to each term (y_i) of the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point (y_1, \dots, y_n) in response to said incrementing to generate a bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n);

 setting the current position (x_1, \dots, x_n) to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n);

 storing the bounded Low Discrepancy Point (z_1, \dots, z_n);

10 repeating said incrementing, said applying boundary conditions, said setting the current position, and said storing until a stopping condition is reached, thereby generating a second Low Discrepancy Sequence in the region; and

 generating output, wherein said output comprises the second Low Discrepancy Sequence, wherein the second Low Discrepancy Sequence defines the Low Discrepancy
15 Curve in the region.

23. A memory medium which is operable to store program instructions for generating a curve in a region, wherein said program instructions are executable to perform:

20 generating an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point;

 applying one or more boundary conditions to the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point to generate a bounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein the bounded Low Discrepancy Point is located within the region;

25 repeating said generating and said applying one or more boundary conditions one or more times, thereby generating a Low Discrepancy Sequence in the region;

 storing the Low Discrepancy Sequence; and

 generating output comprising the Low Discrepancy Sequence, wherein the Low Discrepancy Sequence defines the curve in the region.

24. The memory medium of claim 23, wherein the programs instructions are further executable to perform:

5 scanning the region according to the curve defined by the Low Discrepancy Sequence.

25. The memory medium of claim 23, wherein said applying one or more boundary conditions comprises:

10 if the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point is outside of the region, applying one of a reflecting boundary condition or a toroidal boundary condition at each border of the region.

26. The memory medium of claim 23, wherein said generating the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point comprises:

15 storing two or more irrational numbers;
storing a step size epsilon (ϵ);
storing a starting position;
initializing a current position to the starting position; and
20 incrementing one or more terms of the current position based on a factor of ϵ and one of the irrational numbers to generate the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein each term corresponds to a dimension of the region.

27. The memory medium of claim 26, wherein the programs instructions are further executable to perform:

25 setting the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said applying the one or more boundary conditions.

28. The memory medium of claim 27, wherein said repeating said generating and said applying boundary conditions one or more times comprises:

repeating said incrementing, said applying one or more boundary conditions, and said setting the current position, one or more times.

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29. The memory medium of claim 28, wherein the programs instructions are further executable to perform:

storing a maximum length L of the curve in the region;

initializing a current length to zero prior to said repeating; and

10 updating the current length to include a distance from the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said generating the bounded Low Discrepancy Point;

wherein said repeating one or more times comprises repeating until the current length meets or exceeds the maximum length L.

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30. The memory medium of claim 26, wherein the starting position is a randomly selected point in the region.

31. The memory medium of claim 23, wherein said storing the Low
20 Discrepancy Sequence comprises:

storing each bounded Low Discrepancy Point of the Low Discrepancy Sequence as it is generated.

32. The memory medium of claim 23, wherein the region comprises a 2-
25 dimensional rectangular region, wherein the two or more irrational numbers comprise two irrational numbers, and wherein the curve in the region comprises one or more line segments.

33. The memory medium of claim 32, wherein the rectangular region comprises a unit square.

34. A system for generating a curve in a region, comprising:
5 a CPU; and
a memory medium which is operable to store one or more software programs;
wherein said CPU is operable to execute said one or more software programs to perform:

generating an unbounded Low Discrepancy Point;
10 applying one or more boundary conditions to the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point to generate a bounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein the bounded Low Discrepancy Point is located within the region;

repeating said generating and said applying one or more boundary conditions one or more times, thereby generating a Low Discrepancy Sequence in the
15 region;

storing the Low Discrepancy Sequence; and
generating output comprising the Low Discrepancy Sequence, wherein the Low Discrepancy Sequence defines the curve in the region.

20 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the CPU is further operable to execute said one or more software programs to perform:

scanning the region according to the curve defined by the Low Discrepancy Sequence.

25 36. The system of claim 34, wherein said applying one or more boundary conditions comprises:

if the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point is outside of the region, applying one of a reflecting boundary condition or a toroidal boundary condition at each border of the region.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein said generating the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point comprises:

- storing two or more irrational numbers;
- 5 storing a step size epsilon (ϵ);
- storing a starting position;
- initializing a current position to the starting position;
- incrementing one or more terms of the current position based on a factor of ϵ and one of the irrational numbers to generate the unbounded Low Discrepancy Point, wherein
- 10 each term corresponds to a dimension of the region; and
- setting the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said applying the one or more boundary conditions.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the programs instructions are further executable to perform:

- storing a maximum length L of the curve in the region;
- initializing a current length to zero prior to said repeating; and
- updating the current length to include a distance from the current position to the bounded Low Discrepancy Point after said generating the bounded Low Discrepancy
- 20 Point;

wherein said repeating one or more times comprises repeating said incrementing, said applying one or more boundary conditions, said setting the current position, and said updating the current length, until the current length meets or exceeds the maximum length L .